

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIEP-01 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01

SEC-01 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 120940Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1537

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12161

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED DEVELOPMENTS

REF: TOKYO 11951

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO NEW LOCKHEED ARRESTS THIS WEEK, THERE WAS NO LET UP IN THE FLOW OF UNVERIFIED RUMORS.

ONE SUCH REPORT, TO THE EFFECT THE PROSECUTORS HAVE EVIDENCE LINKING SIX LDP POLITICIANS TO LOCKHEED BRIBES, RECEIVED MAJOR NEWSPAPER PLAY AS DID SOCIALIST CHARGES IN THE DIET LINKING LDP SEC GEN NAKASONE TO KODAMA BRIBES. PRIMIN MIKI AND HIS OPPONENTS WITHIN THE LDP HAVE HELD

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TALKS AND PLAN FURTHER ONES, BUT THEIR MANUEVERING COULD

BE INTERRUPTED BY MORE ARRESTS ANY TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. THE LOCKHEED PROSECUTORS HAVE HAD ANOTHER SLOW WEEK, MAKING NO NEW ARRESTS. THE ONLY MAJOR NEWS STORY INVOLVING THEM WAS A MAINICHI SHIMBUN REPORT ON AUGUST 12 WHICH SAID THE PROSECUTORS HAD OBTAINED SPECIFIC EVIDENCE LINKING SIX PROMINENT LDP POLITICIANS TO LOCKHEED PAYOFFS. THE MEN NAMED WERE: TOMISABURO HASHIMOTO, FORMER LDP SECGEN, TRANSPORT MINISTER AND TANAKA FACTION LEADER; SUSUMU NIKAI, A FORMER CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY AND NOW THE MAIN TANAKA FACTION LEADER; HIDEO SASAKI, FORMER TRANSPORT MINISTER AND OHIRA FACTION MEMBER; TAKAYUKI SATO, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE LDP TRANSPORT COMMITTEE AND NAKASONE FACTION MEMBER; MUTSUKI KATO, FORMER PARLIAMENTARY VICE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND FUKUDA FACTION MEMBER; AND KAZUOMI FUKUNAGA, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE LDP SPECIAL AIR TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE AND ALSO A FUKUDA MAN. THE SIX OCCUPIED THE POSITIONS NAMED FROM 1971-73, WHEN, ACCORDING TO MAINICHI, MARUBENI PAID THEM A TOTAL OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM ITS "UNITS" FUNDS IN CONNECTION WITH APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF LOCKHEED AIRBUSES BY ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS (ANA). ASAHI SHIMBUN RAN A WASHINGTON-SOURCED STORY AUGUST 10 REPORTING THAT THOSE NAMED ABOVE PLUS TANAKA AND THEN MITI MINISTER (PRESENT LDP SECGEN) NAKASONE HAD RECEIVED OTHER LOCKHEED PAYMENTS FROM MARUBENI'S "PIECES" ACCOUNT.

2. NAKASONE WAS ALSO NAMED BY JSP DIETMAN OSAMU YATABE IN THE DIET UPPER HOUSE LOCKHEED COMMITTEE ON AUGUST 11 AS THE RECIPIENT OF MORE THAN TWO MILLION DOLLARS OF LOCKHEED MONEY FROM KODAMA IN CONNECTION WITH A GOJ DECISION TO PROCURE THE LOCKHEED P-3C "ORION." IN MAKING THE CHARGES YATABE PRODUCED TWO RECEIPTS ALLEGEDLY FROM NAKASONE'S OFFICE, BUT NAKASONE EMPHATICALLY DENIED THE CHARGES AND SAID THE RECEIPTS WERE FORGED.

3. PRIMIN MIKI, ASKED DURING AN AUGUST 9 PRESS CONFERENCE FOR HIS REACTION TO NEWSPAPER STORIES IMPLICATING NAKASONE, REPLIED THAT HE BELIEVED NAKASONE'S DENIALS. SINCE THEN, MIKI HAS NOT COMMENTED ON NAKASONE. AT THE SAME PRESS CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFERENCE, MIKI SAID HE DID NOT THINK THE LOCKHEED CASE WOULD BE CLEARED UP DURING AUGUST, AND NOTED THAT THE URGENT TASKS OF REFORMING THE LDP AND PASSING NECESSARY FINANCE BILLS IN A SPECIAL DIET SESSION REQUIRED HIM TO "MAINTAIN THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT" AND NOT "ABANDON HIS RESPONSIBILITY PART WAY."

4. IT WAS APPARENTLY WITH THIS ATTITUDE THAT MIKI

RESPONDED TO A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY DEPUTY PRIMIN FUKUDA
AUGUST 10 CALLING ON MIKI TO ENTER INTO CONVERSATIONS.
MIKI MET WITH FUKUDA FOR THREE HOURS AUGUST 11 AND
WITH FINMIN OHIRA AUGUST 12. MEDIA REPORTED THAT MIKI
TOLD BOTH CHALLENGERS HE WAS DETERMINED TO STAY IN POWER
AND FELT HE COULD DO SO ON THE BASIS OF THE STRONG
POPULAR SUPPORT FOR HIS CONDUCT OF THE LOCKHEED PROBE.
BOTH FUKUDA AND OHIRA ARE SAID TO HAVE URGED MIKI TO
RESIGN GRACEFULLY IN FAVOR OF FUKUDA TO UNIFY THE PARTY
BEFORE FACING PRESSING DIET BUSINESS AND THE FORTHCOMING
LOWER HOUSE ELECTION. FUKUDA TOLD REPORTERS HE AND
MIKI WOULD MEET AT LEAST ONCE OR TWICE MORE.

5. COMMENT. RUMORS IMPLICATING NEARLY ALL OF THE
POLITICIANS NAMED IN PARA ONE HAVE BEEN CURRENT FOR SOME
WEEKS. WE HAVE NO MEANS OF VERIFYING THEM, BUT, IF
TRUE AND IF THEY RESULT IN ARRESTS, A NUMBER OF OUTCOMES
ARE LIKELY. A NAKASONE ARREST WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY
BRING DOWN THE MIKI CABINET; THE ARREST OF NIKAI DO
WOULD PROBABLY MEAN THE BREAKUP OF THE TANAKA FACTION;
OTHER ARRESTS WOULD PROBABLY SERVE ONLY TO SPREAD SOME
OF THE LOCKHEED TARNISH TO OTHER LDP FACTIONS. AS WE
HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, ONLY A FEW CLOSE-MOUTHED PEOPLE
REALLY KNOW WHO--IF ANYONE--WILL BE ARRESTED NEXT.
IN THE ABSENCE OF FURTHER ARRESTS THAT WOULD KEEP THE
BODY POLITIC OFF BALANCE, MIKI'S CHALLENGERS MAY HAVE
FELT NOW WAS THE TIME TO STEP UP PRESSURE ON MIKI TO
RESIGN LEST MIKI DIG IN, RIDE OUT THE EXTRAORDINARY DIET
SESSION AND THEY LOSE THE NEAR-TERM OPPORTUNITY TO TOPPLE
HIM. IN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF FUKUDA'S DEMAND FOR TALKS
LEADING TO LDP RENOVATION, MIKI STILL MAY HAVE BOUGHT
TIME--OF VALUE ONLY IF HIS TACTICS ARE NOT UPSET BY
FURTHER ARRESTS CLOSE TO HOME.
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SHOESMITH

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